GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1712
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2017
Contamination of Ground Water
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of people falling ill especially children due to contaminated ground and drinking water are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases of water-borne diseases and attributable casualties reported in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, disease and State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study in this regard, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for prevention, control and treatment of water-borne diseases in the country; and

(e) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the above period, State UT-wise?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (d): Diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (Dysentery and Diarrhea), Enteric Fever (Typhoid) and Viral Hepatitis A & E are caused by consumption of contaminated drinking water. State/UT wise details of number of cases and deaths reported due to these diseases during 2014-16 as per data compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) are indicated in Annexure I. Separate data is available for men and women but not for children.

Provision of safe drinking water and health services falls within the remit of the State/UT Governments. However, the Government of India has taken steps both for facilitating availability of safe drinking water as also for ensuring effective surveillance of outbreaks of such diseases and their prevention and management.

As informed by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, all States have been informed to commission surface water based piped water supply schemes in all habitations as a long term sustainable solution. However, since these projects have a long gestation period (say 3-5 years) and the rural people cannot be put to the risk of consuming contaminated water, all States have also been advised to install community water purification plants. This has been done with the objective of providing 8-10 litres of safe water per capita per day for drinking and cooking purposes only.

Besides, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, through its Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, helps the States/UTs to effectively detect and respond to disease outbreaks including water borne diseases by providing additional manpower, strengthening of laboratories, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and funds. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) also helps the States/UTs through surveillance, investigation, laboratory and other facilities. It also helps States in capacity building through training & developmental activities.

Health System Strengthening support being given to the State Governments under National Health Mission (NHM) also enhances capacity of the Health Institutions, up to the district level, to treat and manage water borne diseases.

(e): As informed by Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, the State/UT wise details of funds allocated, released and utilized for the supply of safe drinking water under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) including National Water Quality Sub Mission in the rural areas of the country are placed at Annexure II. Besides, NITI Aayog has also provided funds to the tune of Rs. 800.00 crores during financial year 2015-16 for commissioning community water purification plants in all remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitations as a short term/immediate measure. Utilization of resources optimally by the State Governments is critical for effectively reducing the incidence of water-borne diseases.